

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
July 13, 2004

5:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2004, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Kenneth L. Bowman, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

SOLID WASTE

Mr. John Hudgins, Director of Environmental & Development Services, provided an overview of the County's waste management system and the proposed changes to the system, including detailed cost projections. The issues discussed were yard debris, solid waste collection, transfer station contract renewal, fee increases, and ordinance changes. He explained that the enormous amount of storm debris created by Hurricane Isabel had set off huge amounts of collection. He indicated many citizens and tree services were abusing the collection service by taking down trees that were not hurricane related just to be able to take advantage of the County's pick-up service, and this abuse had created a hardship on the equipment. He then discussed the definition of yard debris and suggested the Board remove the tree designation from its definition in order to further clarify it. He stated a new definition was needed because the County was outpacing itself. Mr. Hudgins then displayed the current and proposed costs for yard debris collection, and he also went over the deficit incurred due to the County's low rates. He noted the curbside collection and transfer station contracts would expire soon.

Mr. McReynolds explained that while the equipment had the capability to pick up logs, the loads have stressed the equipment and caused breakdowns that should not occur considering the age of the truck. The equipment is being used beyond that for what it was designed to do.

Mr. Hudgins provided figures for the current and projected services, revealing a \$102,000 annual deficit. He suggested the fees increase from \$10 to \$25 per load, with subsequent loads at \$250 per load. He provided a comparison chart depicting the costs of services in the surrounding localities. He explained the needed improvements under the capital maintenance and construction program and suggested an annual maintenance budget. He discussed the curbside collection contract and provided pictures of the proposed new curbside totes. Mr. Hudgins offered suggestions on the possible expansion of services and additional contract features.

Mr. Frank Hedspeth, Solid Waste Manager, described the proposed new trash receptacles and pointed out the weaknesses in the current ones.

Mr. Zarembo expressed concern over costs being passed onto the citizens.

Mr. Burgett asked if this was one of the items that had been eliminated when the tax rate was cut.

Mr. McReynolds provided information concerning the financial structure of the Solid Waste Fund and explained that while the proposed fee increase was not directly related to the transfer from the General Fund, it would eliminate the deficit in solid waste. Discussion ensued over the proposed scope of services.

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Chairman Shepperd stated he felt a deficit should not be running on anything, especially with items that incur user fees, and the \$1 million was a negative figure.

Mr. Hudgins pointed out that the recycling program is a losing proposition as there is no market for it. He gave some of the theory behind recycling and stated there was little demand for the materials.

Mrs. Noll stated the problem is that the County does not require citizens to recycle nor have trash pick-up.

Discussion continued regarding recycling.

Mr. Hudgins pointed out there are 31,000 households in the County with 15,437 of them being served by the County's collection service. He went over the proposed needed improvements, asked the Board for guidance.

Meeting Adjourned. At 6:30 p.m. Chairman Shepperd moved that the meeting be adjourned to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2004, in the Board Room, York Hall, for the purpose of conducting a regular meeting.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors